

## Message Text

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FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPEMENT DEPARTMENT

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AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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ATHENS FOR RTDO

DAMASCUS FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, BTRA, IZ

SUBJ: NORTH DAKOTA ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH IRAQ

REF: BAGHDAD 423 (NOTAL)

1. MICHAEL SABA OF NORTH DAKOTA (ND) GOVERNOR ARTHUR A. LINK'S OFFICE VISITED BAGHDAD APRIL 2-5 AT CONCLUSION OF ND TRADE MISSION VISITS TO EGYPT AND JORDAN. TOGETHER WITH USINT COMMERCIAL OFFICERS KILLOUGH AND KEISWETTER, SABA CALLED APRIL 5 ON MR. HANI AL NAIB, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, IRAQI MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA). MEETING WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY MR. FAROUK ZIADEH OF THE OIL SECTION OF MR. NAIB'S DIVISION.

2. SABA BRIEFED MFA OFFICIALS ON RECENT ND TRADE MISSION, MD'S ECONOMIC STRUCTURE, ARAB-AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND GOVERNOR  
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LINK'S DESIRE INVITE FROUP OF IRAQIS VISIT ND AS WELL AS

GOVERNOR'S HOPE TO BE ABLE TO VISIT IRAQ. MFA OFFICIALS WERE RECEPTIVE TO SABA'S EXCELLENT PRESENTATION AND SUGGESTED THAT JULY 1976 WOULD BE EARLIEST CONVENIENT DATE FOR EITHER ND VISIT TO IRAQ OR IRAQI VISIT TO ND--SHOULD THESE BE APPROVED BY GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ (GOI). MR NAIB SAID THAT HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY WRITE REPORT TO HIS SUPERIORS INCLUDING HIS RECOMMENDATIONS AND WOULD INFORM STATE OF ND THROUGH USINT WHETHER GOI WOULD ACCEPT MR. SABA'S PROPOSALS.

3. AT USINT SUGGESTION SABA ALSO MET WITH IRAQI CORPORATE LAWYER (RETIRED DIPLOMAT) IN POSITION TO GIVE ADVICE TO ND BUSINESSMEN WITHIN AS INDIVIDUALS OR WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF PROPOSED VISIT BY GOVERNOR LINK.

4. COMMENT: 7 8,5 BELIEVES MR. SABA'S VISIT WAS TIMELY AND HELPFUL FIRST STEP IN CREATING ND TRADING RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAQ. TONE OF MEETING WITH MFA WAS VERY CORDIAL. MFA OFFICIALS WERE CLEARLY IMPRESSED BY ARABIC LANGUAGE STATEMENT ON ND PREPARED BY MR. SABA'S FATHER AND SHOWED KEEN INTEREST IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF ND EXPORTS OF WHEAT TO IRAQ AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IN THE AGRICULTURE AND WEATHER-CONTROL FIELDS. USINT RECOMMENDS THAT ND STATE EDUCATORS GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAQI MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY.

5. USINT WILL STAY IN TOUCH WITH MFA AND WILL REPORT FROM TIME TO TIME ON PROSPECTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SABA'S PROPOSALS. MEANTIME WE LOOK FORWARD TO ASSISTING ANY ND BUSINESSMEN WISHING MAKE PRIVATE VISITS TO IRAQ. WE INVITE ND BUSINESSMEN WISHING MARKET INFORMATION (A) TO WRITE TO US DIRECTLY (P.O. BOX 2447 ALWIYAH, BAGHDAD, IRAQ) AS WELL AS (B) TO SEEK HELP FROM US DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

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